



## H.RES. 986 – Recognizing the courage and sacrifice of those members of the United States Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict and calling for a full accounting of the 1,729 members of the Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.Res. 986 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Boehner (R-OH) on February 14, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, but was never considered.

H.Res. 986 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 20, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.Res. 986 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Expresses its deepest gratitude for, and calls upon all Americans to reflect upon and to show their gratitude for, the courage and sacrifice of the brave members of the United States Armed Forces, including Samuel R. Johnson of Texas, who were held as prisoners of war during the Vietnam conflict;
- Urges States and localities to honor the courage and sacrifice of those prisoners of war with appropriate ceremonies and activities;
- Acting on behalf of all Americans, will not forget the 1,729 members of the United States Armed Forces who remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam conflict and will continue to press for a full accounting of all of these members; and
- Honors all of the members of the United States Armed Forces who have fought and died in the defense of freedom.

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### BACKGROUND

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During the Vietnam War more than 700 service members were taken captive by enemy forces. Another 1,729 service members are still missing and have never been accounted for.

The conflict ended on January 23, 1973 when the United States and North Vietnam announced a cease fire and a prisoner release. By the end of the conflict a total of 113 prisoners had been killed. The highest casualties were from the Air Force.

One of the Prisoners held was then-Major Samuel R. Johnson, United States Air Force. Sam Johnson (R-TX) is now a member of Congress from the 3rd Congressional District of Texas. He was shot down on April 16, 1966, while flying his 25th mission over North Vietnam. He was awarded 2 Silver Stars, 2 Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star with "V" device for valor, 2 Purple Hearts, 4 Air Medals, and 3 Outstanding Unit awards. He retired from military service in 1979 with the rank of Colonel.



# LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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